



# Minnesota Youthbuild Program Overview

## Partnerships with Registered Apprenticeship and Local Contractors

Collaboration among Youthbuild programs, registered apprenticeship and building contractors provides youth with hands-on construction career exploration and networking opportunities with contractors and RA staff. It also offers affiliated employers and local contractors potential workers to meet their work order demands and diversity hiring goals.

### Quotes about Youthbuild:

- “I was a bit apprehensive at first about working with students with low English skills, but once we got them on the jobsite we could see that they truly had the skills to be successful in the building trades” – *UNION APPRENTICESHIP COORDINATOR*
- “Youthbuild graduates are real assets for private contractors. Because of their experience and education, they are job ready.” – *CONTRACTOR*

### Affordable Housing:

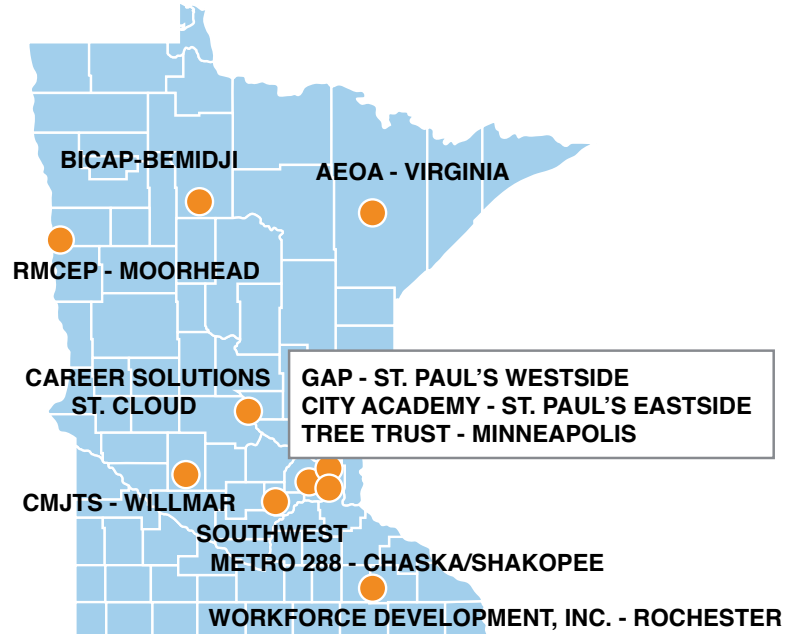
Youth constructed and renovated 28 affordable residential units in SFY 2017, including a tiny house in Willmar and St. Cloud. Since 1991, Youthbuild crews have built or improved 600 affordable homes for low-income families and homeless persons across the state. Projects have included foreclosed homes, Head Start and Early Childhood centers, and battered women’s shelters.

### Return on Investment (ROI):

Within two years, one dollar invested in Youthbuild returns two dollars directly back to the state in the form of increased state tax revenues, and public assistance and correctional savings.

### Statutory Authority:

Minnesota Statutes 116L.361-116L.366



## Youthbuild SUCCESS STORIES:

Each youth listed below struggled with multiple barriers to becoming a successful working adult. With the support of Youthbuild resources and experienced staff, they are now productive young adults working in Minnesota’s construction industry.



**AUNG MYO:** a Karen immigrant refugee from Burma, earned his diploma as a GAP Youthbuild student while improving his English skills and learning the basics of construction. He is now a Floor Covers Union apprentice at Becker Brothers.



**AHEE:** earned his diploma, lead, CPR, OSHA 10 certifications and works for Merit Construction. His supervisor says, “Ahee does everything I could ask of a new framer. He’s a good worker.”



**ALFREDO:** “Alfredo really understands what it takes to be a good worker. He is always at least a half hour early and willing to do any job with a smile” says his supervisor, Dave Wolner. Alfredo earned his diploma, Lead and Control Box certifications, and OSHA 10 and CPR. He now works for Hudson Construction.



# Youthbuild SUCCESS STORIES:



**ADAN:** worked with Mavo Construction on the demolition of a brick chimney. The Mavo Foreman, Josh Sherman, was impressed with Adan's work ethic and hard work attitude; and asked him if he was interested in becoming a union labor after City Academy Youthbuild graduation. Adan earned his diploma, Lead, CPR, Forklift and OSHA 10 certifications. He is currently working for All Star Roofing.



**MATT:** achieved 100% attendance during his entire time in Bemidji Youthbuild, earned his diploma, NCCER and CPR/First Aid certificates and is now installing siding with a local contractor.



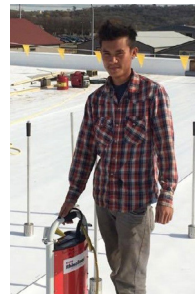
**HTOO THAW:** earned a high school diploma at GAP Youthbuild and is an apprentice roofer with Peterson Brothers Roofing in St. Paul.



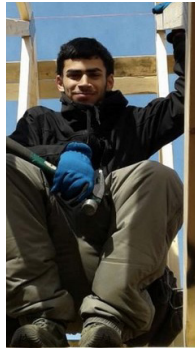
**BRYAN:** "City Academy Youthbuild gave my life direction. My instructors, Dave and Becky, were always positive and encouraging. I couldn't be happier to learn a career path in high school, graduate, and two weeks later be working my dream job. Wow. I'm a Union Carpenter. Through Youthbuild, Bryan earned credentials in Forklift, CPR, Lead, OSHA 10, High School Diploma, UMN credits. He is now employed at PBS Sheetmetal.



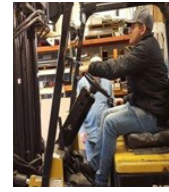
**TONY:** "Youthbuild taught me a lot. Show up at work early and show up every day work ethics. During my first year, I was thinking of dropping out. But Milo and Dave never stopped believing in me. Now I'm in an apprentice program and making a living. It is the first time I felt like someone really cared about me." Through Youthbuild, Tony earned credentials in Forklift, CPR, Lead, OSHA 10, High School Diploma, UMN credits. He is now employed at PBS Sheetmetal.



**SAW:** earned his GED, driver's license, 1st Aid, CPR, and NCCER credentials in GAP Youthbuild. He now earns \$17.86/hour as a Local #96 Roofers apprentice with Roof Tech in Stillwater.



**ISAIAH:** City Academy's Youthbuild program changed the way I look at life. Staff taught me to be good to people even if they are not good to you and also to never give up on anybody. City Academy and Youthbuild brought my maturity to a higher level and helped me gain the confidence that, with hard work, everything will work out. It has changed my life. Through Youthbuild, Isaiah earned credentials in Forklift, CPR, Lead, OSHA 10, High School Diploma, UMN credits. He is now employed at Rainville Carlson Roofers.



**JOSE:** took on a leadership role in Rochester Youthbuild helping his peers on the construction site. He earned his OSHA 10 and Forklift certifications and is currently working fulltime for K and B Concrete.



**JESSICA KEELEY** graduated from City Academy in 1996. Jessica visited City Academy recently to talk to current Youthbuild students about career opportunities in the building trades. After graduating from City Academy, Jessica received a Construction Management Bachelor's degree from the National Labor College and completed a Cement Masons apprenticeship. Currently, Jessica is a Regional Senior Safety Manager with The OPUS Group.



**KLER** was a top student during his time at GAP. He exhibited a great work ethic along with a great acumen for construction work. As a new father, Kler is now a Local 96 registered apprentice at Peterson Brothers Roofing, earning \$18.90/hour.



**RAY** struggled with irregular attendance and chemical usage. After many interventions, Ray finally got on track during his second year at GAP, earned his diploma, and enrolled in a soldering training program at Karen of Minnesota, a GAP Youthbuild partner. Ray was highly successful in the soldering training with perfect attendance. He is now working for Gopher electric, earning \$14.50/hour.

## For More Information:

Kay Tracy, Director (651.259.7555) or  
Nancy Waisanen, Coordinator (651.259.7556)  
Office of Youth Development,  
MN Department of Employment and Economic Development  
[mn.gov/deed/youthbuild](http://mn.gov/deed/youthbuild)



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